

CLEAN VERSION**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 10, rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 4 to read as follows:

A1 --In order to solve the above problem, there is the need of providing a means for improving an arc directionally. According to an experiment, in a welding arc, it is apparent that a passing area of arc current has a range of diameter 6 to 7 mm. In order to limit a dischargeable area, the water cooling copper sheet and plate 4 is provided (as shown in Figs. 4 and 5) with a projected portion 8 having a diameter D of 7 mm and a height L of 15 mm, at the central portion on its surface. Thus, in the case where Si members 1 and 1 are brought near to arc column 2, the arc is generated on the projected portion 8; therefore, a deflection becomes small. As a result, the arc column does not converge from the projected portion 8, and is possible to position Si members 1 and 1 to an effective current passage.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite claims 1-8 to read as follows;

37 72 --1. (Amended) A method for welding a Si-based material containing a single crystal or a polycrystal silicon~~e~~, comprising:
generating an arc between first and second electrodes;
bringing said Si-based material proximal to an arc column; and
performing welding by melting said Si-based material using heat of an arc plasma.--